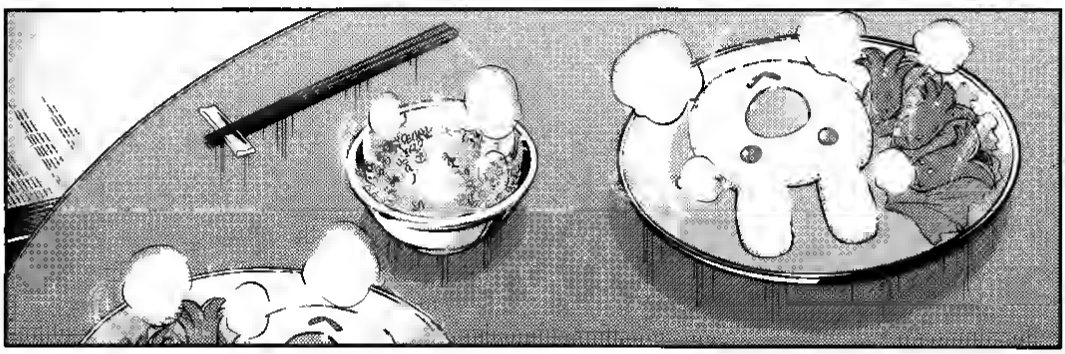
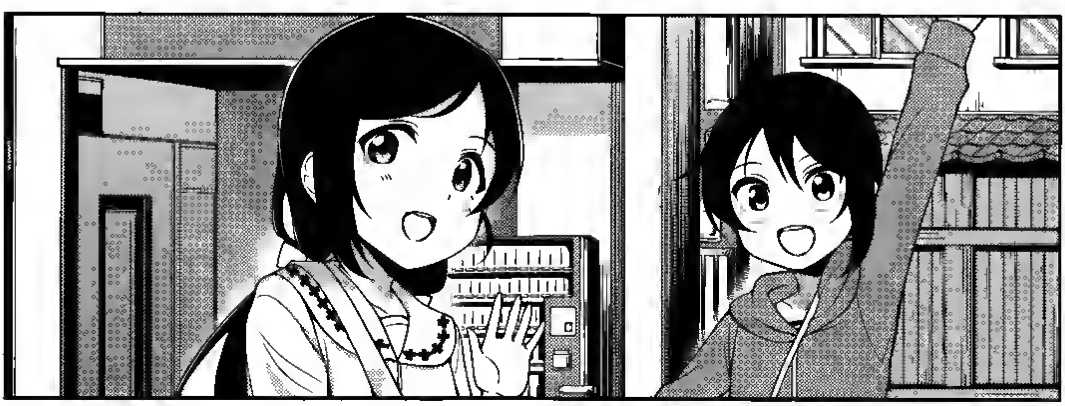
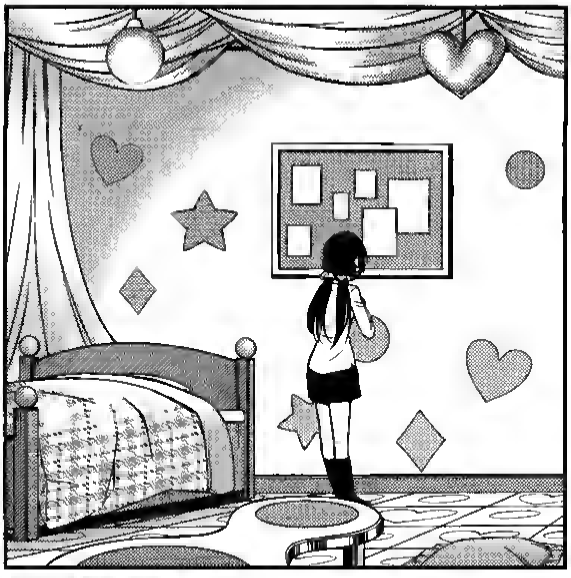
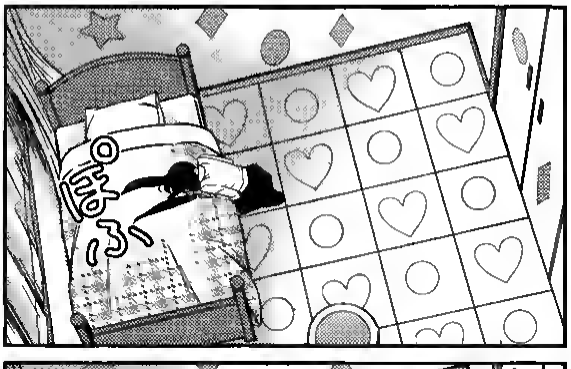
原作：公野櫻子
作画：おだまさる
キャラクターデザイン：室田雄平







UGH...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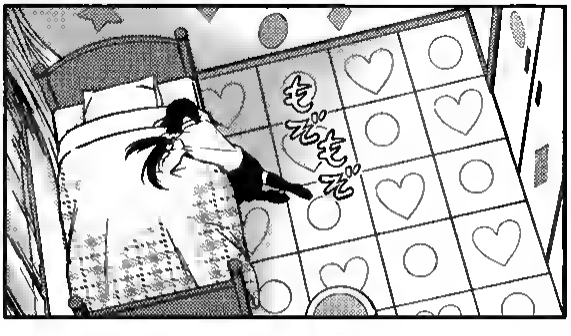
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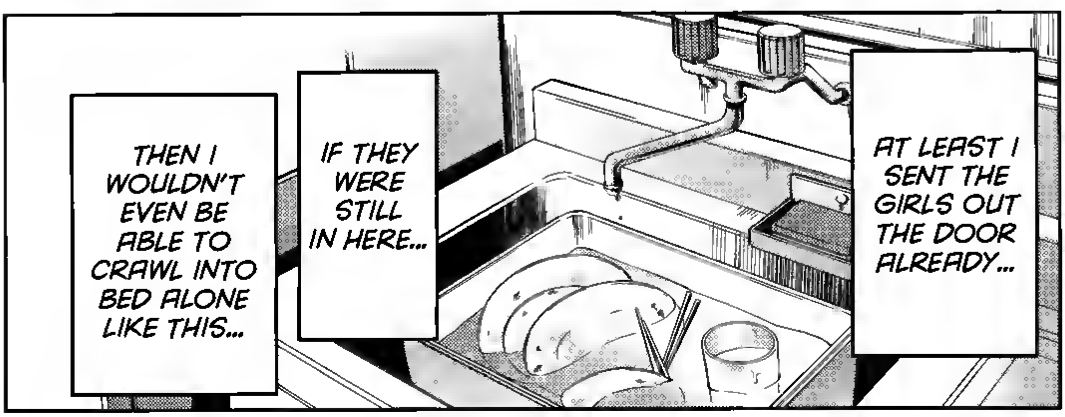
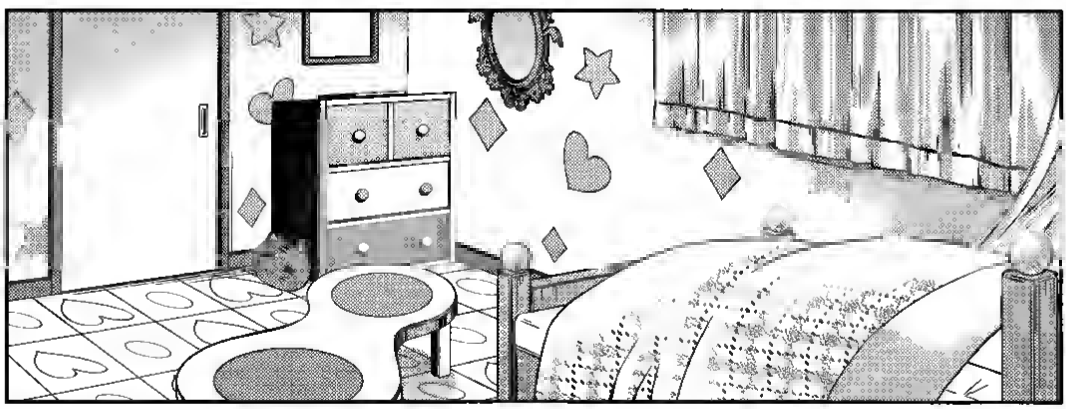
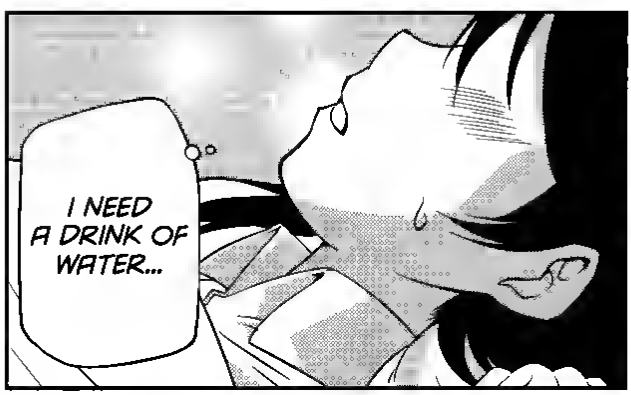
I CAN'T GO ON...

UGH...

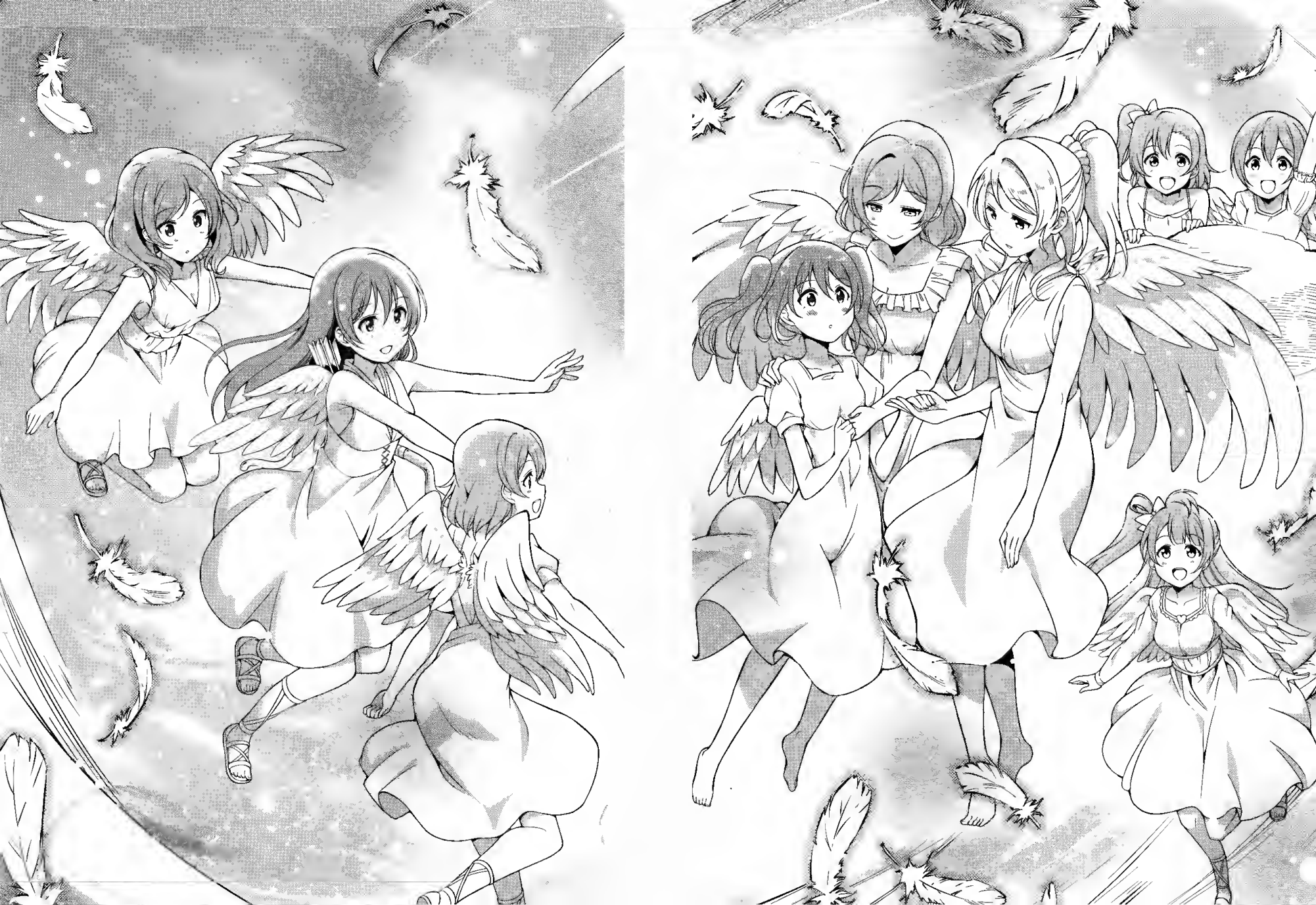

THEN I WOULDN'T EVEN BE ABLE TO CRAWL INTO BED ALONE LIKE THIS...
IF THEY WERE STILL IN HERE...
AT LEAST I SENT THE GIRLS OUT THE DOOR ALREADY...

JUST A BIT OF SLEEP AND THEN I'LL BE FINE... RIGHT?
I'M USED TO BEING ALONE.




I NEED A DRINK OF WATER...

I'VE SPENT LOTS OF TIME ON MY OWN. IT'S ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THIS FOR ME.
BUT I CAN HANDLE THIS.
IT'S JUST A FACT OF LIFE THAT I DON'T HAVE ANYONE TO CARE FOR ME.
IN FACT, JUST BEING ABLE TO SLEEP ALONE, WITHOUT ANY WORRY IN THE WORLD...
THAT... IS ALL...
I WANT...



I DREAMT I WENT TO HEAVEN.
IT WAS AN ODD DREAM.
LALA
AW, COME ON, WHY ARE THEY ALL ANGELS?
I'M SUPPOSED TO BE THE ONE WITH ANGELIC CUTENESS HERE!

THEY WERE ALL SO NICE TO ME.
I WAS DRIFT-ING...
ALL I COULD DO WAS FLOAT ABOUT AIMLESSLY, SINCE I DIDN'T REALLY KNOW HOW TO WORK MY WINGS YET...
BUT THEY TOOK ME AROUND WITH THEM AND TOOK CARE OF ME.

ひんやり

HUH?
WATER...

UGH, I'M STILL THIRSTY...
N... NEED...

IS THIS REALITY?
A PALE, GENTLE HAND...
JUST LIKE MOM'S HANDS...

ELI!?
HEY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?
ぽっ

DON'T GET UP, NICO. YOU'RE RUNNING A HIGH FEVER.
YOU NEED TO GET SOME REST.
WHAT IS ELI DOING IN MY HOUSE?
WHY...?
むー

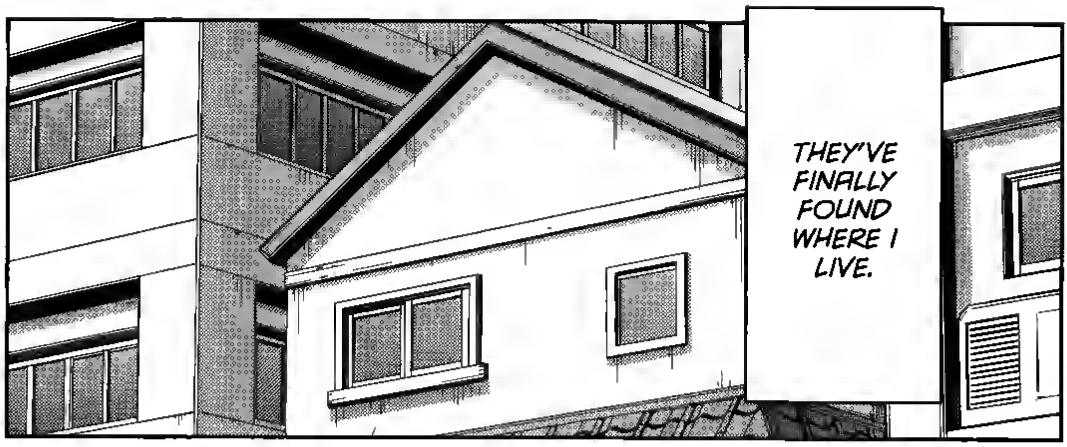
WE WERE SURPRISED TO FIND YOU SLEEPING WITH THE DOOR UNLOCKED, THOUGH.
YOU KNOW YOU MISSED A DAY OF SCHOOL, RIGHT?
YOU HADN'T CONTACTED THE SCHOOL, EITHER, AND EVEN THE TEACHERS WERE WONDERING WHAT HAPPENED, SO ALL OF US CAME TO CHECK UP ON YOU.
"ALL OF US"...?
THAT'S RIGHT.
I KNOW YOU COLLAPSED WITH A FEVER, BUT YOU COULD AT LEAST LOCK THE DOOR FIRST.

YOU COULD HAVE AT LEAST GIVEN US A CALL BEFORE YOU COLLAPSED!
YEAH.
SHE SOUNDS A LITTLE ANGRY, BUT ALSO KINDER THAN SHE'S EVER SOUNDED BEFORE.
ポン
A FEVER THIS HIGH COULD HAVE TURNED INTO PNEUMONIA IF WE LEFT IT ALONE!
SO I LOOKED AROUND A BIT, BUT THAT WAS THE BEST I COULD FIND. YOU'LL BE FINE WITH THOSE, RIGHT?
I WASN'T SURE WHERE YOU KEEP YOUR PAJAMAS...
I CAN FEEL MY HEART BEATING FASTER... AM I JUST IMAGINING IT?
NO, IT'S JUST BECAUSE I'M SICK, THAT'S WHY...

MY TRACK-SUIT...

NOZOMI, SHE...

NO, JUST THE FACT THAT THEY'RE IN HERE MEANS...
IF THEY'VE BEEN SEARCHING THROUGH MY HOUSE...


THEY'VE FINALLY FOUND WHERE I LIVE.

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

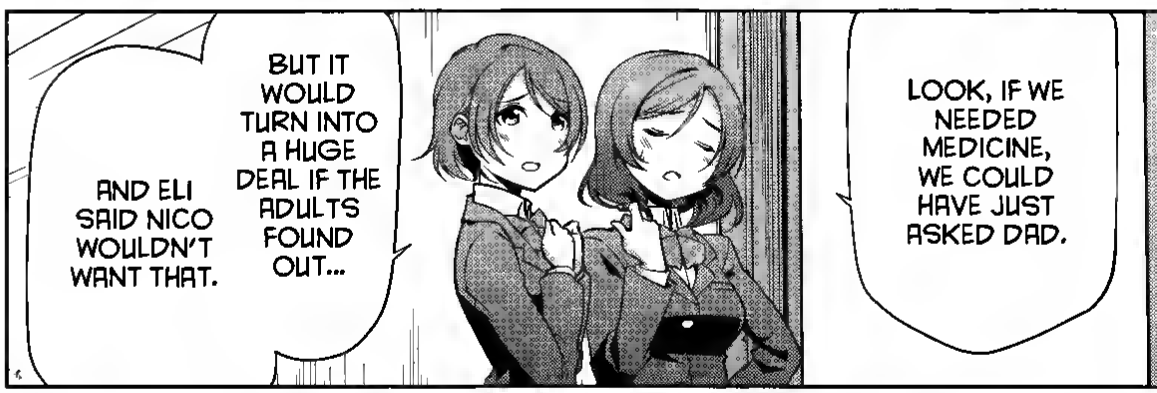
NO, ACTUALLY ...
I DON'T WANT TO THINK ANYMORE...

I DON'T NEED TO THINK ANYMORE.

I DON'T NEED TO
HIDE MY TRUE SELF
FROM THEM ANYMORE.

I'LL CURE YOU WITH ELICHKA'S HEALING HANDS.
HAVE YOU HEARD OF LAYING ON HANDS? IT'S AN ANCIENT JAPANESE TRADITION.
COME ON, ELI! WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
YOU'RE STARTING TO SOUND LIKE NOZOMI WITH THAT OCCULT STUFF.
I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT I FEEL STRANGE.
I STILL DON'T BELIEVE HER, BUT I FEEL HAPPY.
IS THIS REALLY HAPPEN-ING?
WE'RE BACK!

AND WE GOT THE MEDICINE!
SHHH! NICO'S SLEEPING!
WE BOUGHT SOME EXTRA ICE, TOO. WILL THIS BE ENOUGH?


LOOK, IF WE NEEDED MEDICINE, WE COULD HAVE JUST ASKED DAD.
BUT IT WOULD TURN INTO A HUGE DEAL IF THE ADULTS FOUND OUT...
AND ELI SAID NICO WOULDN'T WANT THAT.

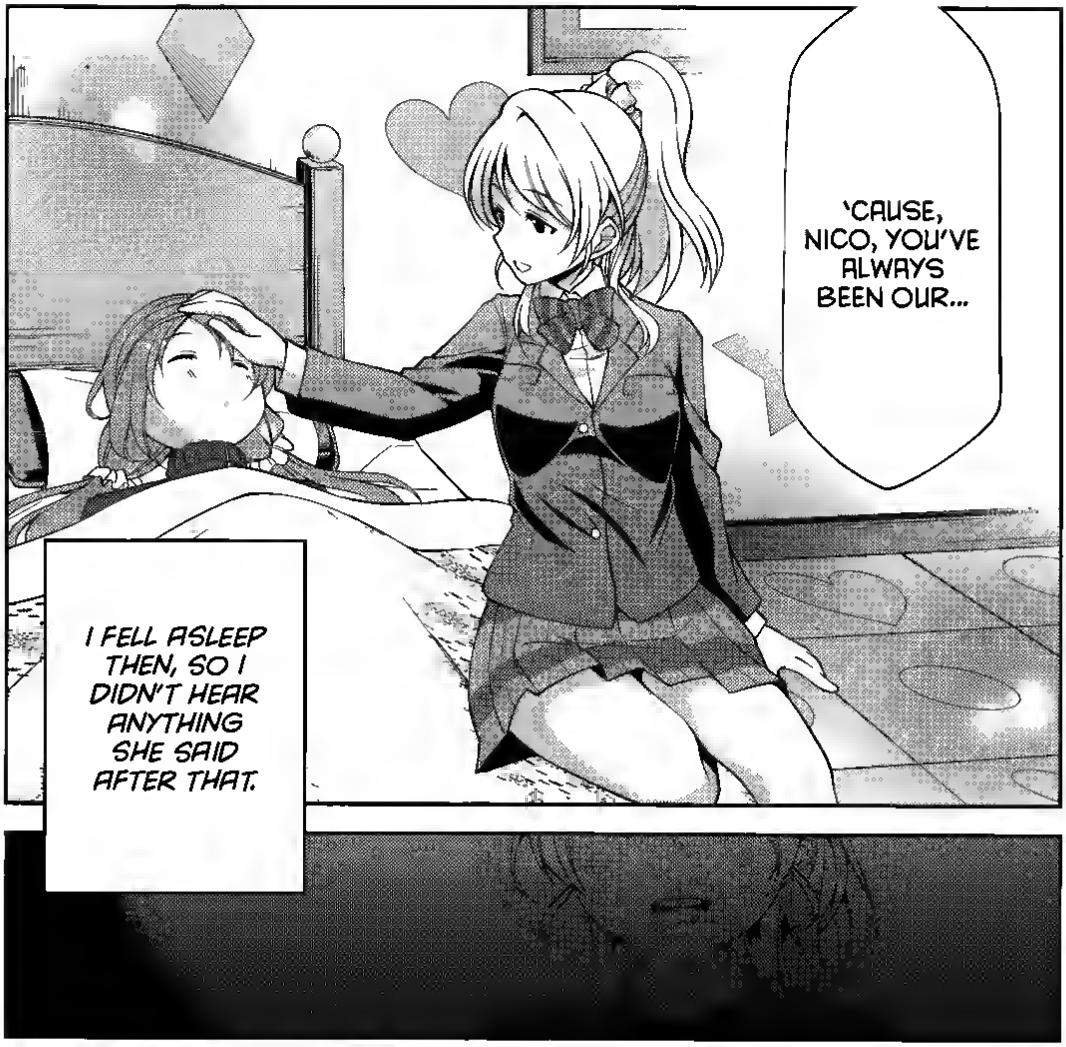
IN THAT CASE...
Heh heh...

I'LL HAVE TO USE MY KITTY POWERS
AND CHASE THE FLU OUT OF NICO'S BODY!
UH-HUH.
にゃん♡
IF IT WERE THAT EASY, THEN HOW DO YOU THINK HOSPITALS STAY IN BUSINESS!?

I'VE NEVER SEEN NICO SO QUIET AND WELL-BEHAVED BEFORE!

Someone help!
!
キゅ

NICO, I KNOW YOU CAN HANDLE JUST ABOUT ANYTHING ON YOUR OWN, AND THAT'S HOW YOU'VE ALWAYS DONE THINGS,
AND MAYBE WE'RE NOT TOO RELIABLE,
BUT YOU SHOULDN'T HESITATE TO ASK US FOR HELP.

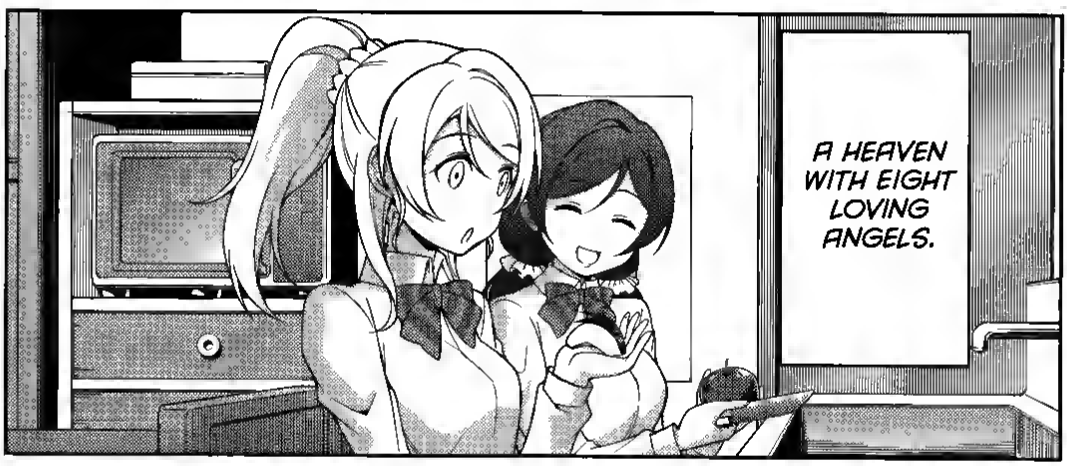

'CAUSE, NICO, YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN OUR...
I FELL ASLEEP THEN, SO I DIDN'T HEAR ANYTHING SHE SAID AFTER THAT.

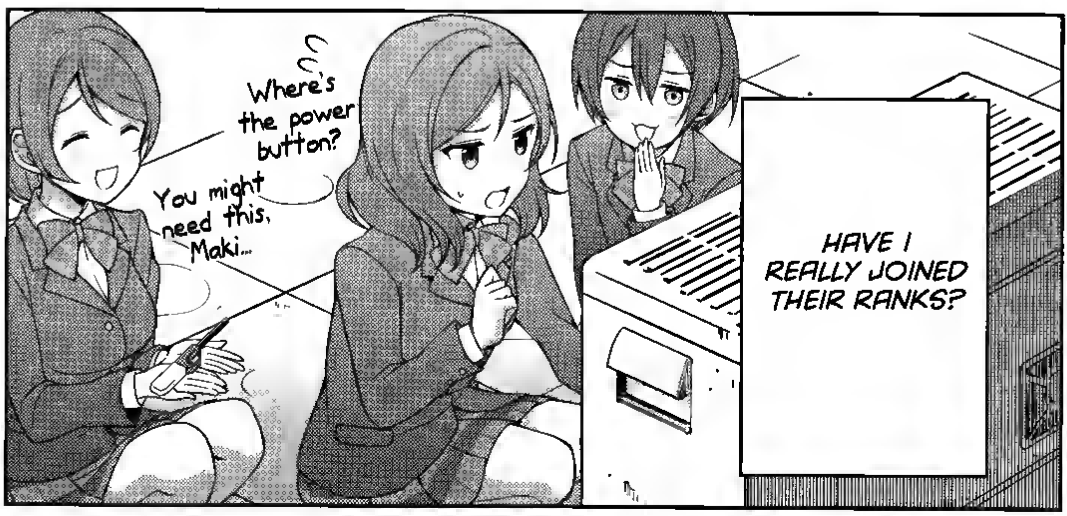
AND WHY DO I FEEL LIKE I'M ABOUT TO CRY? IT MUST BE BECAUSE I'M SO SICK.
SO WHY DO I FEEL THIS HEAT WELLING UP IN THE BACK OF MY EYES.

I KNOW THAT MY EYES WILL BE SWOLLEN RED TOMORROW IF I RUB THEM NOW,
Elichi!
BUT I HAVE TO WIPE IT AWAY.

GOD...

IT REALLY IS LIKE I'M IN HEAVEN.


A HEAVEN WITH EIGHT LOVING ANGELS.


Where's the power button?
You might need this, Maki...
HAVE I REALLY JOINED THEIR RANKS?

MY CHEST TIGHTENS UP SO HARD WHEN I THINK ABOUT IT...

I MUST BE REALLY SICK TODAY.
9人の絆は永遠に不滅です♡